

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are presented for consideration, with Claim 1 being independent.

Claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art. Claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled.

The amendments to the claims were not presented earlier as it was believed that the previously presented claims would be found allowable. This Amendment does not add any additional claims. Moreover, the Examiner's familiarity with the subject matter of the present application will allow an appreciation of the significance of the amendments herein without undue expenditure of time and effort. Finally, the Amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration or search. Accordingly, it is believed that entry of the Amendment is appropriate.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Arai '085 in view of Yamamoto '999. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as set forth in Claim 1 relates to an electroconductive device comprised of a pair of oppositely disposed electrodes, and a luminescence layer and an electroconductive layer disposed between the electrodes. The electroconductive layer comprises a mixture of a plurality of organic compounds which are mutually intermolecularly structural isomers having an identical ring structure and an identical rational formula but having structures different in the manner in which their atoms are linked. As claimed, the plurality of organic compounds include a major component and a minor component, with the mixture comprising the major and minor components in a (major component)/(minor component) ratio of 1/1 to 9/1.

In accordance with Applicants' invention, a reliable and high luminescence electroconductive device can be provided.

As discussed in the previous Amendment of September 9, 2003, Arai relates to an organic electroluminescence device having an organic light emitting layer 4, an electron injecting and transporting layer 5 and an inorganic hole injecting and transporting layer 3 disposed between a hole injecting electrode 2 and an electron injecting electrode 6. As disclosed in column 4, lines 43-49, the organic layer is comprised of a conjugated polymer or a mixture of a conjugated polymer or copolymer with other suitable polymers.

The Office Action acknowledges that Arai does not specifically disclose that the organic compounds are mutually structural isomers, and attempts to compensate for this deficiency with the secondary citation to Yamamoto.

In Yamamoto, an electroluminescence element includes an organic compound layer as a light emitting layer or a hole injection transport layer. As understood, however, in Yamamoto a thiophene polymer I or copolymer II contained in the electroluminescent element is a structural unit of a single thiophene copolymer, and thus are not structural isomers. Moreover, even if the structural units of formulas 1 and 2 were considered to be structural isomers, it is understood that an intramolecular relationship would exist between the polymers and not an intermolecular relationship as now set forth in Applicants' Claim 1. Still further, the copolymer in Yamamoto is understood to generally have a molecular distribution, and thus it would not have an identical ring structure and an identical rational formula as set forth in Applicants' claims.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the electroluminescence element in Yamamoto fails to compensate for the deficiencies in Arai. Therefore, without conceding the propriety of combining Arai and Yamamoto in the manner proposed in the Office Action, it is submitted that such a combination still fails to teach or suggest Applicants' invention.

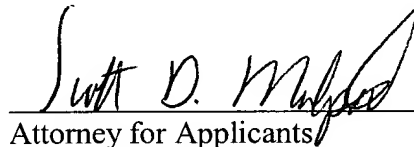
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is thus respectfully requested.

Therefore, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 2-10 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

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